

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 87

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Patricia Vander Werf Johannsen PRESENT POSITION Self-employed

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Nov. 20, 1952 Holland, Michigan

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Crafts Wood, enamel paints

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Hope College (Holland, Michigan) B.A.

Ohio University (Athens, Ohio) 1yr. on M.F.A. - Graduate Teaching Assistant

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Michigan Colleges Undergraduate & Graduate Drawing Competition -
Group Shows - Cain Gallery (Oak Park, Illinois, Saugatuck, Michigan) - 1974.
1975 -
1985.

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Hope College (Holland Michigan)
Lawry's Prime Rib Restaurant (Chicago, Illinois)
Numerous private collections in U.S.

AWARDS:

Holland Council for the Arts Award
Herman Miller Art Award
1st Prize - Michigan Colleges Undergraduate & Graduate Drawing Competition.

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

My May Show folding screen is combination furniture, sculpture and painting. Its order and symmetry are both enhanced and relieved by repetitive wooden shapes that balance precariously on slender legs and march up and down the stepped, cut out areas. These cut out portions open up the screen allowing one to see through it. The order is further enlivened by the sponged and splattered application of paint. The simple patterning of the wooden shapes provides counterpoint. And the lavender dowels add a whimsical touch.

(over, please)

The colors are harmonious, cheerful, playful, but not too obtrusive. This screen is 'intended' to dominate its setting through its size, repeated shapes and patterns, and attention to details.

After years of painting figures realistically with oils on canvas and increasing frustration with my painting style and creative stagnation, I've emerged with a fresh, different approach. My current work is more contemporary, abstract and energized.

I've brought some of my paintings down "off the wall" in the forms of folding screens and metal and painted wood jewelry that are wearable works of art. While not abandoning canvas, I'm using other materials like wood, masonite, plastic and metal for their inherent qualities and to shape them to my will.

Faster drying paints like acrylics and enamels help me work more quickly and retain a sense of immediacy and freshness. Now I'm sponging, wiping, rolling and splattering the paint on, besides brushing. And reveling in the use of color for its own sake.

I'm thoroughly enjoying this new direction and my work echoes my pleasure.